

THE CACTUS FLAT CATAMOUNT

LAURENCE LOCKNEY, Editor

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DEADLY RIVALS BREAK SOLEMN XMAS TRUCE

Cayucos Sam and the Siskiyou Kid, who had been sworn enemies ever since the Kid took up his abode in our midst several months ago, became fast friends on Christmas day, owing partly to the spirit that invaded the universe on that day, but mostly to the mellowing influence of a bottle of Rattlesnake Ike's aged in the bottle liquor. But their friendship was broken in twain this week when Cayucos was telling one of his whopping yarns while trapping in the Canadian woods, when he spent a couple of years up there some time back. Cayucos was going good, and catching everything that wore fur or horns, and was selling the pelts for as high as a thousand dollars apiece when the Kid butted in. "I s'pose you was trapping for bear," insinuated the Kid with a smirk. "Naw," answered Sam, contemptuously. "I was trapping big game. I baited my traps with live grizzly bears."

The Kid got mad at the laugh that went up from the numerous bystanders who didn't have any business of their own to attend to, and were taking in everything Cayucos said, and when the laughter subsided the Kid was so red in the face that he couldn't think of anything else to say but to call Cayucos a liar, which is not considered etiquette in this neck of the woods, and when Sam reached for his gun, which he didn't have on, the Kid beat it hurriedly for home, which is the woodshed out behind the Catamount office, and which the Kid rigged up a stove in and put some colored pictures on the walls to make it real cozy and homelike, and he wasn't seen on the streets until the next day, when he would have another notch on his gun before night. When Cayucos heard that the Kid was after his skelp he said that didn't worry him none, as there was a pine box out behind the dry goods store which would just about fit the Kid. Sam said his trigger finger was itching anyway as things were getting too tame lately and he advised the friends of the Kid to get everything in readiness to attend a funeral at which the Kid would be guest of honor, but they both quit talking when they found that people had lost interest in their row and our little city has slipped back into its usual routine of absolute torpidity.

LOCAL NEWS

Cube Root, who quit smoking a few days ago, was seen searching around in his back yard this morning, where he was successful in finding his pipe. Constable Twist Newton arrested a herd of sheep today for obstructing traffic. The village souse took a load of corn to the county seat Tuesday and returned with a load of rye. Sycamore Slim writes that the residents of the charming little frontier village of Los Angeles were afforded an opportunity to view their city for a few moments Monday morning when the fog lifted.

Bill Smith, hero of the late war, who beat his sword into a plowshare, is wondering how he is going to get it back into shape again before it is time to use it. Scotty Macpherson says his English is imperfect, but at that it is not as vicious as Rattlesnake Ike's Scotch. Centipede Clark, who has been absent from our midst for several days, is out on bail. A copy of the New Ford was on display in Sparkplug Sparks' garage this week. It has several new features, but no change was made in the honk. The chiropractor was called over from the county seat this week to straighten the spokes in Cube Root's bicycle. Scotty Macpherson has been successful in trapping a glow-worm, which will be used to heat his bathroom. Jeff Jones, an aviator in the late war, who recently made a non-stop flight over Alkali Lake is preparing to leave for New York City, where he will put on a parade. Greasewood Slim writes that Sam Francisco was wide open on New Year's eve, but no one seemed surprised.

SCIENCE AND ART

The human race came into existence 16,000,000 years ago, says a scientist; but Bearcat Boone says congress can revert further back than that. Archimedes Puck has developed into a cubist artist since he got the contract to varnish the meat block in the butcher shop at Whiskey Slide.

HAMP JIGGS ENTHUSED OVER PROSPECTS FOR 1928

Hamp Jiggs, who runs the local filling station for Mr. Rockefeller, spoke encouragingly of the financial outlook for the year of 1928, which recently made it baybew in our midst, taking over the books for the old year, which went out of business. Hamp says fluctuating currency is partly responsible for the advent of good times which are threatening to absorb the country, calumnated by the roseate future for record smashing crops in the southern states and throughout the middle west. Capital, he says is loosening up a bit, also the spurge in that direction has not yet hit Cactus Flat. Banks are loaning with more ease than formerly, he avers, except to those who need money. Stocks and bonds have hit the upgrade, signifying a great relapse of normality among the well to do on Wall and Brad Street, where money changes hands with a frequency that is sometimes alarming in the extreme. Various indications, according to Hamp, tend to prove that the year of 1928 will be one of the most prosperous and resourceful years of recent date, which is not saying much. Hamp is in a position to know what is going on in the world, as he is in touch with men of affairs

who are connected with the big oil companies, and he also picks up quite a bit of information from tourists who have their cars filled with sparkling gasoline at his beautiful and daintily acoutered red, white and blue station.

SOCIETY PAGE

Miss Halitosis McGuire gave a slumber party last Saturday night. Covers were laid for six. Alf Stude was taken suddenly ill Tuesday evening while drinking from a bottle.

PROSPEROUS FARMER IN FROM COYOTE GULCH

Snoot Simpkins was in this week from Coyote Gulch, where he owns a farm which is mostly rocks, and which never yields anything but pesky weeds, but you can't keep a dry land farmer from planting another crop, and Snoot says he will start his spring plowing as soon as he can get his crowbar sharpened.

Department of Agriculture Press Service

A New York farm woman learned to clean her sewing machine and put it in good running order. Then she made pin money by overhauling the machines of her neighbors.

For the past two seasons of trapping, the fur catch in this country has declined at an alarming rate. The 1925-26 catch was 20 per cent less than in the previous year and in the 1926-27 season the decline was even greater.

Federal-aid road projects completed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, increased by more than 8,300 miles, the mileage of improved roads in the Federal-aid highway system, and brought the total length of roads improved with Federal assistance up to 64,209 miles.

A student of home economics has calculated that dishwiping in an average family is equivalent to wiping as much space as a three-acre field. Proper scalding and a good dish drainer saves this useless work and allows an average of 20 minutes a day of leisure for the housewife who follows the easier method.

If the dairy herd is culled intelligently on the basis of individual cow records, if the remainder are fed according to known production, and if only good purebred sires are used, almost any dairy herd, regardless of its condition at the start, will eventually be raised to a plane of good production. Successful dairying depends on many factors. Among these, culling is one of the most important.

Among the succulent roughages pasture and silage are of most importance. Dairy cows always do better in early summer when the grass is plentiful and green. Because of the nutrients and succulence that it provides, silage is the most economical winter substitute for pasture grass. Good cows will produce more and therefore cheaper milk if given silage or some other succulent feed during the winter.

A daily ice service was inaugurated last spring throughout the Ohio River Basin by the U. S. Weather Bureau. It includes the larger tributaries of the Ohio, the Missouri River east of Kansas City and the Mississippi river from the mouth of the Missouri to the mouth of the Ohio river. The information received and the forecasts issued will be broadcast by radio, published in river bulletins, weather maps and newspapers, and telephoned to lock masters along the Ohio river. Special reports of the formation of ice gorges will be made. Reports on gasoline taxes show

that the District of Columbia and all but four of the states levied gasoline taxes in the first six months of this year ranging from 1 cent to as high as 5 cents a gallon. The total of taxes collected after allowing for refunds was slightly more than \$100,000,000 collected from users of nearly 4,000,000,000 gallons of gasoline. The four states that did not tax gasoline — Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey—are estimated to have consumed 947,000,000 gallons bringing the total gasoline consumption used for motor vehicles in the first six months

to nearly 5,000,000,000 gallons.

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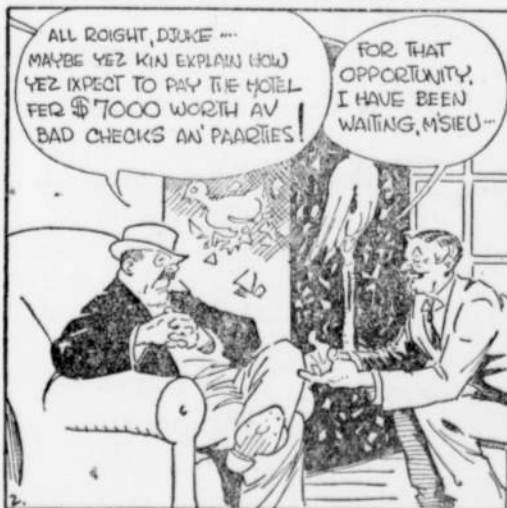
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FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By F. O. Alexander



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Figuratively Speaking



Buddies

